



State Representative Cathy C. Tymniak

Dear Friends,

It continues to be an honor and a privilege to serve as your state representative.

Enclosed is an update on some of the major issues that were addressed during the 2006 session. I am happy to report continued progress on transportation, the environment, education, stimulating jobs and the economy.

As always, I look forward to assisting with any state related or consumer issues that you may have. Please do not hesitate to contact me with comments, suggestions or concerns.

I wish everyone in Fairfield and Westport a wonderful summer. If you would like to visit our state parks, check out the website www.dep.state.ct.us/stateparks. For Connecticut tourist sites and cultural events , you can click on www.cultureandtourism.org.

Sincerely,



State Representative

CATHY C. TYMNIAK
Proudly Serving the 133rd District
Fairfield ★ Westport



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PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.housegop.ct.gov

2006 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



State Representative
CATHY C. TYMNIAK
Proudly Serving the 133rd District
Fairfield ★ Westport



Rep. Tymniak speaks on the floor of the House during a legislative debate.

PROTECTING YOUR INTERESTS

As in past years, I am working hard for taxpayers, children, families and senior citizens. I am happy to report that the legislature agreed to several initiatives to hold down spending, protect the environment, help save for college education, improve transportation and stimulate job growth. If you would like further information, please visit our website at www.housegop.ct.gov. Following are some of the highlights:

Voting for Job Creation

Connecticut continues to lag the nation in new jobs and economic growth. I fought for legislation to roll back some of the high taxes that make Connecticut uncompetitive with other states. The property tax on manufacturing equipment will be phased out, the corporate tax surcharge that was reimposed last year will be eliminated and tax credits will encourage companies to hire employees and produce movies in Connecticut.

New legislation will encourage innovation through faculty recruitment and an entrepreneurial center at UConn, funds for small business incubators, and programs to finance early stage ventures and to match federal research assistance. The state will establish pilot math and science grant programs and student loan repayment grants for engineering and doctoral students. Several initiatives will promote research in the growing field of nanotechnology that deals with extremely small electronic circuits and mechanical devices built at the molecular level of matter.

For the Environment

The state will establish a greenhouse gas labeling program for new motor vehicles starting with 2009 models. New legislation will require public notification about contaminated sites and private drinking water wells.

Long Island Sound Beach Erosion

I cosponsored a bill to begin a \$450,000 pilot program to fight beach erosion and protect Long Island Sound in Fairfield and Milford.

For Transportation

With my strong support, the legislature authorized a 10-year, \$2.3-billion transportation package in addition to last year's \$1.3-billion plan that included 342 new cars for the Metro-North commuter rail line. Future authorized projects include more commuter rail service, stations and parking facilities and removal of I-95 bottlenecks.

For Consumer Protection and Against Identity Theft

The legislature prohibited using the Internet or an e-mail message to solicit or induce someone to provide identifying information by pretending to be an on-line Internet business without the business's authorization (a practice known as "phishing").

For Seniors/Veterans/Healthcare

A new law allows towns and cities to freeze property taxes for homes owned by people age 70 or older. Homemaker-companion agencies must register with the Department of Consumer Protection and employees must undergo background checks. Legislation will protect jobs and finances of National Guard members who are called up for state service such as natural disasters, just as if called up for national service. The legislature updated Connecticut law on end of life decisions, hospital acquired infections and umbilical cord blood banking.

For Children, Education

I continued the fight for more state aid for local public schools under the state's Education Cost Sharing formula. Some state school aid increases were approved, but at less than full funding. Good news is that families can now take a state income tax deduction when they save up to \$10,000 for a child's education in the Connecticut Higher Education Trust (CHET). With my support, the legislature approved \$875 million in local school construction reimbursements including increased grants for reauthorized projects.

State Budget

I supported adjustments to the state budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2006. The budget provides \$245.7 million for the underfunded Teachers' Retirement System, \$85.5 million to pay off debt from the 2003 fiscal crisis, \$33 million in property tax relief to the towns and \$189 million saved in the state Rainy Day Fund for future economic downturns.

Grants to towns increase by \$115.5 million to \$2.557 billion for Fiscal Year 2007. Aid for special education students goes up by \$35 million. Taxpayers can take a property tax credit of up to \$500 when filing 2006 state income returns, up from \$400.

This year, a \$1-million pilot program for adults with autism that I had co-sponsored was included in the budget. Connecticut had been one of only two states without a program to help adults with autism to obtain jobs and live independently.



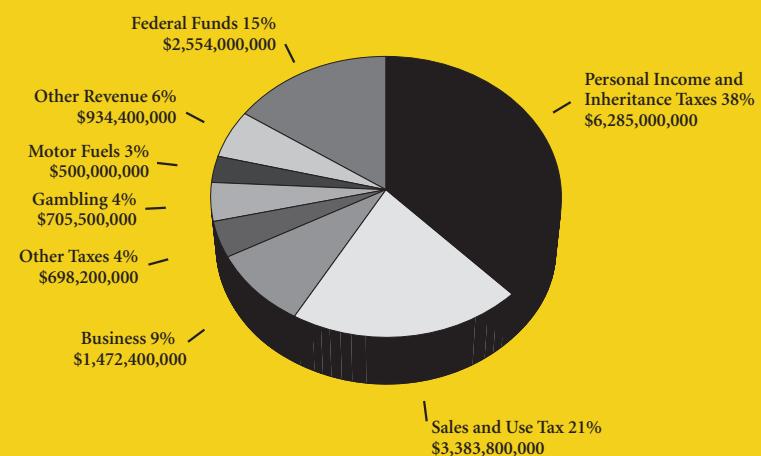
Rep. Tymniak confers with Sen. Judith Freedman on the floor of the state House of Representatives in Hartford.



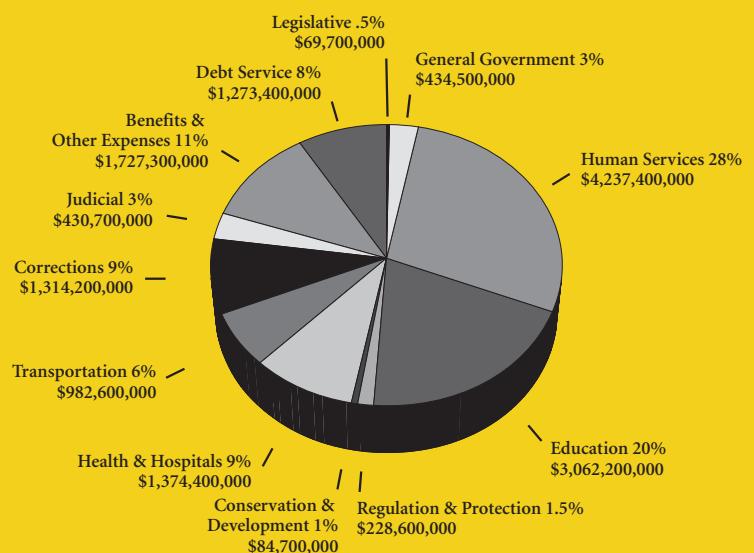
BUDGET ENDING JUNE 30, 2006

The 2006 general fund and the special transportation fund spends \$15.2 billion.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?



WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?



*In addition to an expected surplus, the difference between expenditures and revenues is due to tax refunds.

Information Available

A complete summary of the Major Public Acts adopted by the legislature this year including the adjusted state budget can be found on the legislative website: www.cga.ct.gov.

You can also contact my office and I would be happy to mail more detailed information to you.